

# II Peter 3: 1-7

*The purpose of this  
epistle  
&  
scoffing in the last  
days*

HHBC





# II Peter 2: 20-22

## Today's passage:

- (1) This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:
- (2) That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:
- (3) Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,
- (4) And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.
- (5) For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:
- (6) Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:
- (7) But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.



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## Verse 1:

- 1) Verse 1: is the PURPOSE of the epistle.
  - (a.) the statement saying it's Peter's 2<sup>nd</sup> letter would prove that he is the author of II Peter, disputed by some...
  - (b.) the purpose of I Peter: God's **government of the righteous**, and how the believer was to act in the midst of persecution & suffering... How he/she is to act in the present world.
- 2) In the 2<sup>nd</sup> epistle, the overall theme is God's **government of the Unrighteous**, and the divine retribution to follow
- 3) 'stir up': **diegeirō** in Greek; to arouse from sleep; to agitate as in to agitate the sea. Same word that was used on Jesus on the boat on Galilee during the storm, which he rebuked.
- 4) 'Pure' mind (NASB: has 'sincere): pure in Greek: **eilikrinēs**; which is derived from heile, or sun; and 'to judge'. So: to judge by the rays of the sun... In ancient use, holding up a pot to the sun to see if the pot had cracks in it that were fixed/ filled with wax and then painted over. Instead of 'pure, NASB uses 'Sincere' the latin word for sincere is **sine cera**. or 'without wax'

ADAPTED FROM: WM. KELLY 'THE EPISTLES OF PETER' BIBLE TRUTH  
PUBL. & DR. GRANT RICHISON, '2<sup>ND</sup> EPISTLE OF PETER' GRACE TRUTH



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## Verse 2:

- 1) Things spoken before by the holy prophets: Peter is reiterating that the words of all the OT prophets are true and verified (by the confirmation of them at the holy display of the Transfiguration on the mount); and himself, John and James witnessed this, so they have inspired authority (note: ***the commandment of us apostles***)
- 2) Later on in chap. 3: he includes Paul into the fold as having apostolic and scriptural authority:
- 3) **PURPOSE of the Epistle:** to RECALL TO MIND all that (we: Peter, prophets of old, the other apostles) told you...

For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased"— and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic word *made* more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a *matter* of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. **II PETER 1:16-21**

*.... and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, **II PET 3;15***

*... That God has **granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him** who called us by His own glory and excellence.... precious and magnificent promises... that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust... **II PET 1:3,4***



# II Peter 3:1-7

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## Verse 3:

- 1) Peter's **Timeframe** has moved in Chapter 3 from Chapter 2
- 2) Chapter 2: False Teachers (likely scoffers, too) were in his present day
- 3) Chapter 3: He gives warning of the characteristics of apostasy in the 'last days' before the Rapture (***more later***)
- 4) Food for thought: How accurate was Peter's prophetic word about scoffers appearing?
- 5) Following after their own lust = *epethümeä*: desire, craving
- 6) More food for thought: Is this lust fleshly lust or spiritual lust? (e.g. is Christendom's embracing of global warming, focus on earthly social justice issues a spiritual lust?)
- 7) 'Where is the promise of His coming?' (a.) this has an assumption: that the mockers know scripture, (b.) but knowing it they use it as bludgeon to true believers in the Return of Christ, (c.) similar to: "***He cannot save Himself. He is the King of Israel; let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe in Him.***" MAT. 27:42

Therefore take heed, so that the thing spoken of in the Prophets may not come upon you:  
 'BEHOLD, **YOU SCOFFERS**, AND MARVEL, **AND PERISH**;  
 FOR I AM ACCOMPLISHING A WORK IN YOUR DAYS,  
 A WORK WHICH YOU WILL NEVER BELIEVE, THOUGH SOMEONE SHOULD DESCRIBE IT TO YOU.'" ACTS 13:40-41



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## Verse 4:

- 1) . . . ‘for since the fathers fell asleep, **all things continue as they were** from the beginning of creation’..
- 2) Essentially their argument has a valid point to it, does it not?
- 3) This argument has a kernel of prophecy to it . . . it is the theory of **uniformitarianism**
  - a. **Uniformitarianism:** two men—James Hutton and Charles Lyell. Hutton (1726–1797) was a Scottish farmer and naturalist. In his observations of the world around him, he became convinced natural processes, such as mountain building and erosion, occurred slowly over time through geologic forces that have been at work since Earth first formed. He eventually turned his observations and ideas into what became known as the Principle of Uniformitarianism. (nationalgeographic.org)
  - b. Uniformitarianism had a fan: his name was Charles Darwin; made it a central tenet in his evolution. . .
- 4) Evolution lit the world on fire with Darwin’s *‘On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life’* in 1859 (note the full title; how does the world accept this Satanic garbage? . . .)
- 5) What Peter perceived in the first century had become a worldwide scientific dogma in the 1800s
- 6) Of interest here: The Big Bang Theory is the brain-child of Rev. Georges Lemaître, a Vatican priest... The Big Bang then comes from the ranks of the ball of wax known as ‘Christendom’



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## Highlight on Verse 3:

1) 'THE LAST DAYS': has these characteristics:

- **An extensive body of scripture is devoted to The 'Last Days' of the Church**
- **Within the present church age but at its very end**
- **Is pre-tribulational but in some ways preparatory for the Great Tribulation**
- **Characterized by Men departing from the faith** (I Tim 4:1-3)
- **A manifestation of characterizations that belong to unregenerate men but it is under the profession of a "form of godliness"** ( II Tim 3:1-5)
- The indication from (II Tim 3:1-5; Rom. 1:16; I Cor 1:23-24; II Tim 4:2-4) **is that they deny the power of the blood of Christ**, the leaders in these forms of 'righteousness' will be unregenerate men from whom nothing more spiritual than this could proceed ( I Cor 2:14)
- More passages of this last days of the church: (I Tim 4:1-3; II Tim3:1-5; 4:3-4; James 5: 1-3; II Peter 2:1-22; 3:3-6 and Jude 1-25)

### EXAMPLES FROM THE ABOVE:

- |                              |                                 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| a. Denial of God             | e. Denial of the separated life |
| b. Denial of Christ          | f. Denial of Christian liberty  |
| c. Denial of Christ's Return | g. Denial of morals             |
| d. Denial of sound doctrine  | h. Denial of authority          |

L.S. CHAFER; CIT. IN 'THINGS TO COME' DWIGHT W. PENTECOST; ZONDERVAN



# II Peter 3:1-7

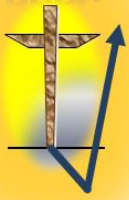
(5) For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

(6) Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

## Verses 5:

- 1) For this: (*asking, 'Where is the promise of Christ's coming? All things continue as they were since the beginning..'*) They are **WILLINGLY (WLLFULLY) IGNORANT** of the fact of spontaneous God-spoken Creation.
  - Creation account is written in scripture (*recorded by Moses, present at I Peter 1:16-18's Transfiguration*)
  - God spoke the heavens and earth into existence by the word of His power
- 2) Willingly Ignorant: **thelō**: resolved to, determined, desirous to be ignorant. Strengthened from the alternate word, **haireō** = to choose. You could say they delight in, take pleasure in choosing **not to know** that God formed the heavens and earth by His word. Darby: 'through their own willfulness'. In modern political language: this is called: **plausible deniability**
- 3) '*The earth standing out of the water and in the water*' (KJV). '*and the earth was formed out of water and by water*' (NAS)
  - **The earth was formless & void and darkness was over the 'surface of the deep'** in Gen. 1; 'surface of the deep' has the connotation of a surface of water
  - Then in Gen. 1:6 and 7: God separated the waters from the waters: **God made the expanse, and separated the waters which were below the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse; and it was so**
  - Likely: Vs. 7 is where the 'Canopy of Water' creation theory comes about (Henry M. Morris, et al)
  - My take: the earth is 70% water (now); the atmosphere (clouds) is comprised of water: God separated these two





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(6) Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

## Verses 5, 6:

### 4) *'Whereby the world that was then, being overflowed with water, perished'*

- The flood came suddenly, the judgment came suddenly. NAS: has vs. 6: *'through which the world was destroyed'* – 'through which' is a relative plural pronoun: the 2 things that God used to destroy was **the water** and **His Word**. [Constable]
- We have 2 conflicting Viewpoints (1) The Mockers' uniformitarian view that things move along at a glacial pace and is the same unchanged for ages, and (2) God's viewpoint: expressed through His Word and that suddenness and catastrophic means created the earth, and (re-formed it) catastrophically through the violence of the flood. (Think: canyons, cliffs, volcanic activity, formation of mountains)
- The descriptive words from Jesus Christ Himself in Mat. 24 puts flesh on the bones of II Pet. 3:6:

*For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be. Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left.*



# II Peter 3:1-7

(7) But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

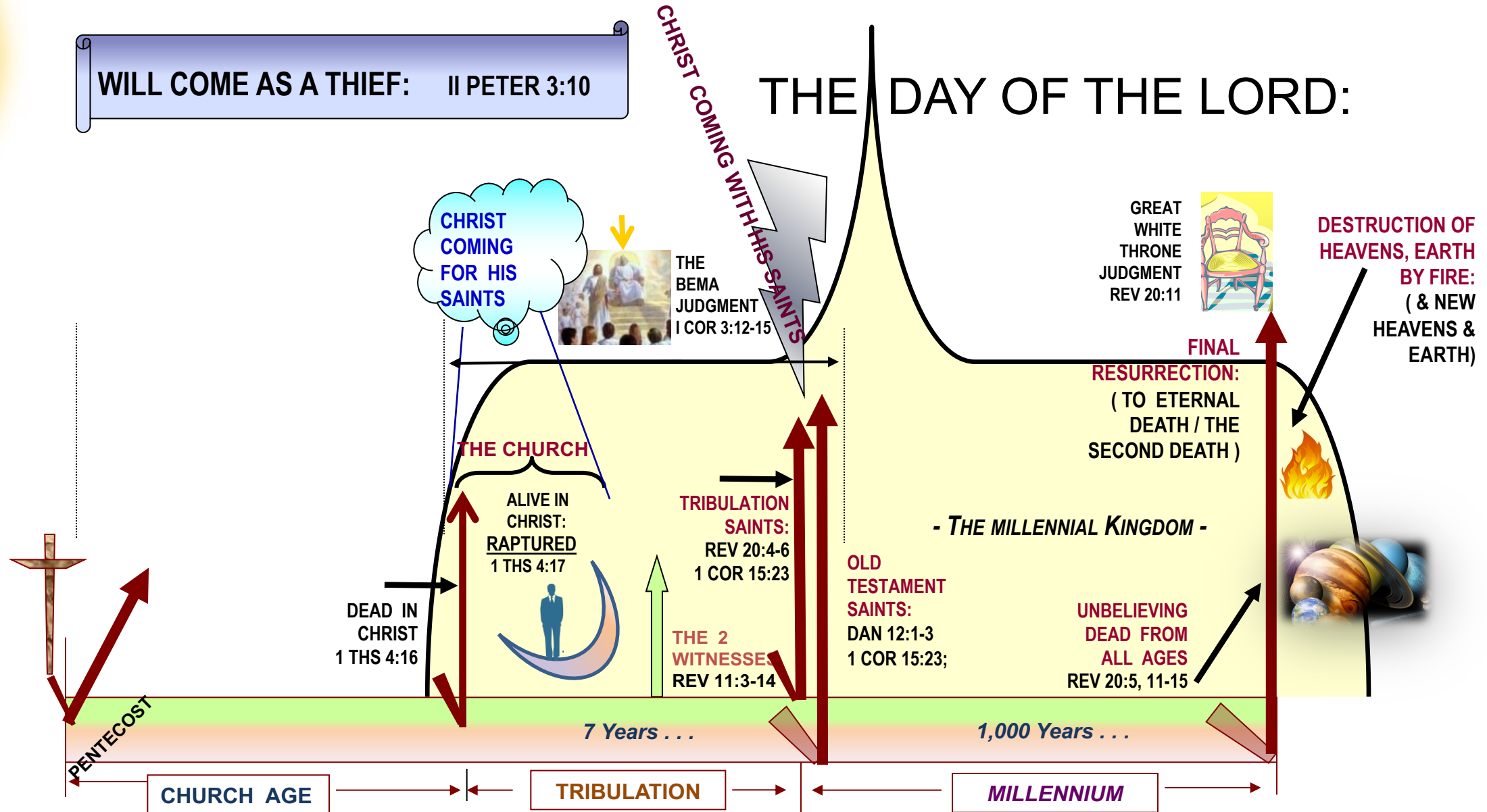
## Verse 7:

- 1) NEW WAY OF JUDGMENT: the 'But' gives a contrast from the judgment via water; but now, the same heavens and earth are reserved for FIRE
  - 'Reserved; kept in store' = **thēsauroizō**: gather & store up; accumulate... A thesaurus gathers up and stores synonyms and antonyms for future reference.
  - Again, the only reason the heavens and earth exist now in present stability and calm is by God's word. When He gives the word, they will end.
- 2) 'THE DAY OF JUDGMENT' (vs. 7) / 'THE DAY OF THE LORD' (vs. 10) / 'DAY OF GOD' (vs.12): needs definition and context:
  - "when at the last day of grace is ended and the day of the Lord will succeed it... **The day of the Lord follows the Rapture. It will be the time when the judgments of God are poured out upon the earth.** It includes the descent of the Lord with all His saints to execute judgment on His foes and to take possession of the kingdom . . . and to reign in righteousness for one thousand glorious years" [HA Ironside]
  - Scofield: Called Day of Jehovah in OT: a lengthened period of time **beginning w/ the Lord in Glory (2<sup>nd</sup> coming) (????)** and ending w/ the purgation of the heavens and the earth by fire preparatory for the new heavens and the new earth [Isa 65:17-19, 66:23, 2 Pet. 3:13, Rev. 21:1
  - "That Day", "the great day" (more that 70 times in the OT)
  - "If you want to be right..." as my dear old Pop used to say: *Go with Ironside & Pentecost & Walvoord (contrasted to Scofield)*



WILL COME AS A THIEF: II PETER 3:10

# THE DAY OF THE LORD:





# II Peter 3:1-7

(7) But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and **perdition (destruction) (\*)** of ungodly men.

## Verse 7: CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DAY OF THE LORD:

### FROM ZEPHANIAH 1:

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD!  
For the day of the LORD is near,  
For the LORD has **prepared a sacrifice**,  
He has consecrated His guests. . . .  
10 “On that day,” declares the LORD,  
“**There will be the sound of a cry** from the Fish  
Gate,  
**A wail** from the Second Quarter,  
And a loud crash from the hills. . . .  
14 Near is the great day of the LORD,  
Near and coming very quickly;  
Listen, the day of the LORD!  
In it the warrior **cries out bitterly**.  
15 **A day of wrath** is that day,  
**A day of trouble and distress**,  
**A day of destruction and desolation**,  
**A day of darkness and gloom**,  
**A day of clouds and thick darkness**,

### “A day of reckoning”: ISAIAH 13

6 **Wail**, for the day of the LORD is near!  
It will come **as destruction** from the Almighty.  
7 Therefore all hands will fall limp,  
And every man’s heart will melt.  
8 They will be terrified,  
**Pains and anguish** will take hold of them;  
They will writhe like a woman in labor,  
They will look at one another in astonishment,  
Their faces aflame.  
9 Behold, the day of the LORD is coming,  
Cruel, with **fury and burning anger**,  
To make the land a desolation;  
And **He will exterminate its sinners from it. (\*)**



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### Final Thoughts:

### A final word from William Kelly:

*.... 'that such a view is according to the Spirit of scripture may be made plain by "new creation" as applied by the apostle Paul in 2 Cor. v. 17 'so if any one (be) in Christ, [there is ] a new creation'*

*Yet it is but the risen life in the soul.*

***Only when we are changed into conformity to the body of Christ's glory will it be fulfilled in its entirety.***

*\* (Left unfinished by the author's death). – he covered through vs. 7 of Chapter 3 ...*